THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken up the issue of attacks by Sri Lanka Navy on Indian Fishermen on the Sri Lankan side of the international boundary line. The Government of Sri Lanka have conveyed that strict instructions have been issued to Sri Lankan Navy to refrain from any violence against Indian fishing vessels and to escort straying vessels to the Indian side of the international boundary line.

(c) and (d) Government have seen the report in DINAMANI dated 12th July, 1992 about incident of attacks by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen on 10th/11th July, 1992. The authorities concerned, both in India and Sri Lanka, are ascertaining the facts relating to them.

Applictaion for issuing passport

2310. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Regional Passport Offices in the country which receives the maximum number of applications for the issue of new passports;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open any new passport offices in the country in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Regional Passport Office, Bombay receives the maximum number of applications.

(b) and (c). The Government is reviewing the network of Passport offices, with a view to improving the provison of Passport services. The review would consider the need for additional Passport offices, their location and priority as also the availability of necessary additonal financial and man-power resources.

New passport offices at Mangalore an in Tamil Nadu

2311. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is demand for opening of a new Passpor Office at Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what steps Government hav taken in this direction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there i a demand to open new Passport Offices i different parts of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, whether Government hav identified these centres; and

(e) what is Government's response t this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THI MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. There have been suggestions for ope ning a passport office at Mangalore an new passport offices in Tamil Nadu.

The Government is reviewing the net work of passport offices with a view t improving the provison of passport servi ces. The review would consider the nee for addoitinal passport offices, their loca ion and priority as also the availabil ity of necessary additional financial an man-power resources.

Joint Venture between Birla Group an U.S. Company for manufacturing Soft ware

2312. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRU TTINAN: Will the Prime Minister b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter telecom Private Limited of U.S. and th Birla Group, have agreed as a Join Venture for manufacturing of softwar and customer support faclity manufac turing unit in the field of telecom equip ment in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and